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COUNTRY Military Information from Camp Spratzern, South of St. Poelten, Melk, Bruck

on the Leitha River, Goetzendorf, Margarethen am Moos and Kaisersteinbruch

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25X1 EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 23 to 26 June 1952

25X1 DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

1 October 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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Camp Spratzern.

1. On 25 June 1952, 20 lieutenant colonels and majors were observed at Camp Spratzern, south of St. Poelten (O 49/W 88). All field-grade officers wore red-bordered black epaulets. There were about 16 such officers wearing tank insignia, and four wearing artillery insignia. A group of 27 EM with red-bordered black epaulets, led by a captain wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, returned to the camp from rifle firing practice. The camp was guarded by a sentry who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Six trucks, three jeeps and a sedan were parked in the installation. Vehicles [redacted]

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[redacted], all driven by soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Local residents stated that no troops had arrived for summer training. (1)

Melk.

2. On 25 June, 12 unarmed EM led by a senior lieutenant, all wearing red-bordered black epaulets, entered the Birago Kaserne at Melk (O 49/W 68). The installation was guarded by a sentry who wore red-bordered black epaulets. A truck was seen in the yard. According to local residents, the troops had left for field exercises. (1)

Bruck an der Leitha

3. On 26 June, no armored vehicles were observed in the garages south-east of the Bruck an der Leitha (P 49/X 77) railroad station. There were tank tracks leading from the garages to the loading ramp. A group of 18 EM armed with rifles led by a captain and another officer, all wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, entered the camp in the woods which was guarded by a sentry with red-bordered black epaulets. Three majors wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen leaving the camp. Vehicles [redacted]

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[redacted] came from the direction of Kaisersteinbruch (P 48/X 67) and left toward the same direction one and a half hours later. All drivers wore red-bordered black epaulets. Jeep [redacted] was parked in front of the former headquarters. When this jeep left it was occupied by a major, coming from the installation, and a driver wearing black-bordered black epaulets. The building was guarded by a sentry who wore black-bordered black epaulets.

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25X1 The sentry of the new headquarters wore the same type of epaulets. Jeep [redacted] was parked in front of the building. (1)

Goetzendorf.

4. On 24 June, a weapons carrier and a jeep on blocks were seen in the yard of the Yasangarten Kaserne near Goetzendorf (P 49/X 57). Officers observed included two majors with red-bordered black epaulets, and five majors and 12 captains who wore black-bordered blue epaulets. An obstacle course of dummy houses, fences and wire entanglements had been constructed in the eastern sector of the installation. Three groups of about 12 EM each were observed training with a tank. [redacted]

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All drivers wore red-bordered black epaulets, including student drivers on five trucks. Other vehicles seen were trucks [redacted] with drivers who wore black-bordered blue epaulets. (2)

Margarethen am Moos.

5. On 24 June, 1 captain and 10 EM, all wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, were observed at the Gutshof Margarethen am Moos (P 49/X 57), which was guarded by a sentry with the same type of epaulets and insignia. Truck [redacted] towing an AA gun with a funnel-shaped muzzle entered the garden, where eight trucks were parked. (3)

Kaisersteinbruch.

6. On 23 June, 12 trucks, each with an AA gun with a funnel-shaped muzzle, and 19 other trucks were parked in the cantonment east of Kaisersteinbruch, which was guarded by a sentry with red-bordered black epaulets. The low barracks buildings in the cantonment were still under repair, as they have been for about a year. About 40 EM carried billeting equipment to buildings which appeared to have been completely repaired. Trucks observed at the installation [redacted] with all drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Thirty trucks and 12 canvas-covered artillery pieces were seen on a hill east of the camp. Three field-grade officers with black-bordered red epaulets and a major with red-bordered black epaulets were observed at the cantonment west of Kaisersteinbruch. (4)

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Comments.

- (1) As in 1951, the observations during the spring and the summer of 1952 indicate that only small units of the Soviet Forces in Austria have been moved to the troop training grounds.
- (2) In general, the information on Goetzendorf indicates no changes since the last report.
- 25X1 [redacted]
- (4) The artillery pieces observed near the cantonment east of Kaisersteinbruch belong to the 2500th AAA Regt of the 13th Gds Moos Div.

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